

West Virginia

Agricultural Statistics

Service

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February 1, 2005

2004 FARM NUMBERS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

WEST VIRGINIA -- The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 20,800 in 2004. The total land in farms was 3.6 million acres. The average farm size was 173 acres. These numbers were unchanged from the previous 3 years. The West Virginia number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 economic sales class totaled 17,200, the same as 2003. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 2.07 million acres, a decrease of 30,000 acres from 2003.

The number of operations with cattle and calves totaled 12,500, down 4 percent, or 500 farms, from 2003. Beef cow operations totaled 10,900, down slightly less than 1 percent, or 100 farms, from 2003. Milk cow operations totaled 480, down 4 percent, or 20 farms, from 2003.

The number of operations with hogs and pigs totaled 800, down 11 percent, or 100 farms, from 2003.

The number of operations with sheep and lambs totaled 1,100, unchanged from 2003.

UNITED STATES -- The number of farms in the United States in 2004 is estimated at 2.11 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2003. Total land in farms, at 936.6 million acres, decreased 2.25 million acres, or 0.2 percent, from 2003. The average farm size was 443 acres in 2004, an increase of 2 acres from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and transfers of agricultural land to competing uses.

Compared to 2003, the number of farms in 2004 declined in 19 states, remained unchanged in 30 states and increased only in Alaska (10 farms). The largest decline in number of farms occurred in Kentucky and Tennessee (each losing 2,000 farms), California and North Carolina (each losing 1,500 farms), and Alabama, Florida, and New York, which lost 1,000 farms per state.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 989,460 during 2004, down 2 percent from 2003 and 5 percent below 2002. Beef cow operations in 2004 were down 2 percent from 2003 and 4 percent below 2002. Milk cow operations were 6 percent below last year and 11 percent below two years ago. Texas, with 150,000, had the largest number of operations with all cattle while Wisconsin, with 15,900, had the most milk cow operations.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 69,420 during 2004, down 6 percent from 2003 and 9 percent from 2002. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 79 percent of the inventory. Iowa, with 9,200, had the largest number of hog operations.

The number of operations with sheep totaled 67,160 during 2004, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 92.0 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 6.5 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.5 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 30.3 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 22.0 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 47.7 percent of the inventory. Texas, with 7,200, had the largest number of sheep operations in the nation.